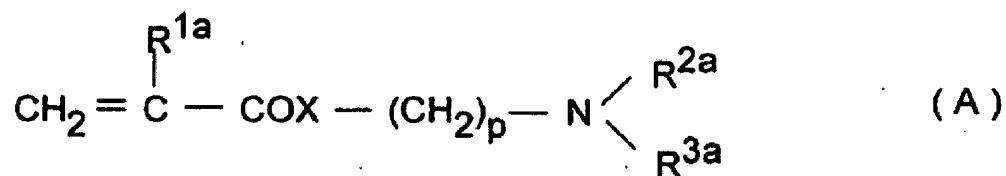


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite ~~wherein comprising~~ a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms ~~is covered with polymer chain~~ and a block copolymer, wherein said carbon compound is covered with polymer chains of the block copolymer and is encapsulated in a structure-polymer micelle which is originated in ~~a~~ the block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell.

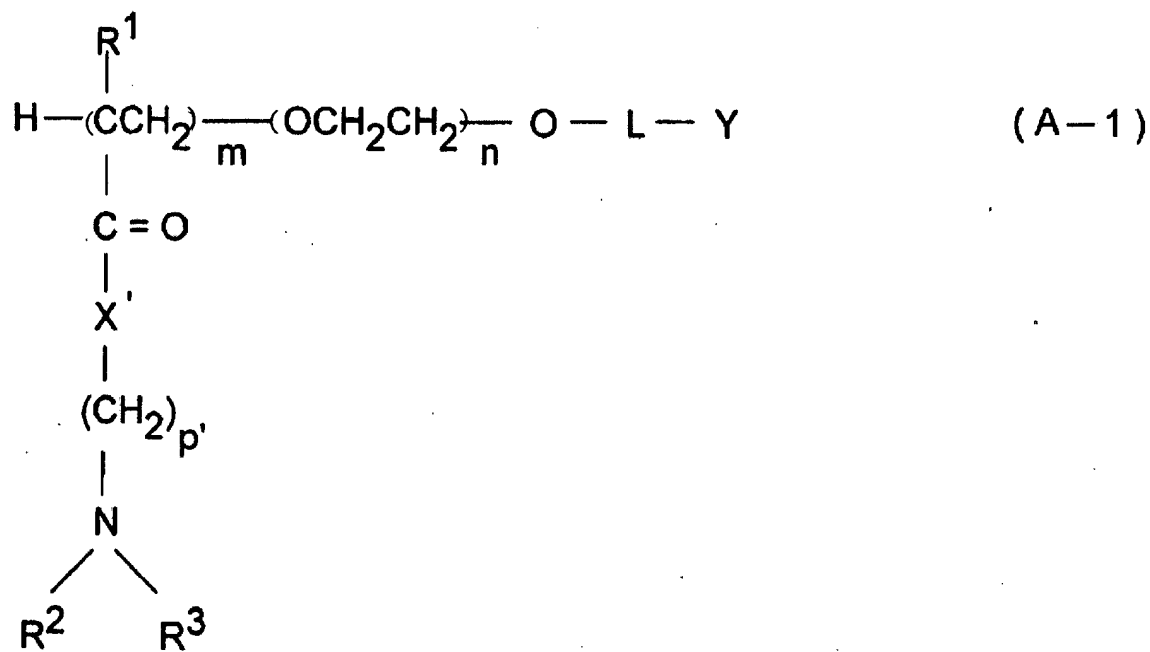
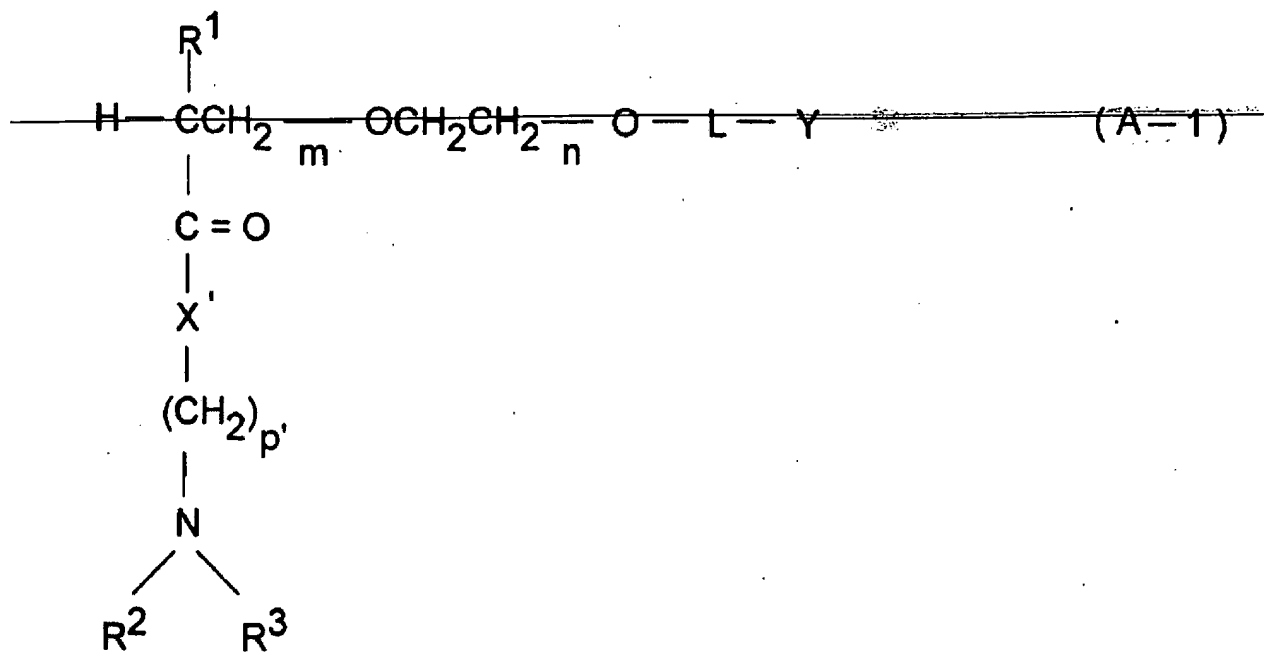
**2. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 1 which has a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

**3. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:



wherein R<sup>1a</sup> denotes a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>3a</sup> either, independently, denote a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an integer of 2 to 6, said finely particulate composite having a solubility of 0.5 mg/ml or more in distilled water at 25°C.

4. (Currently Amended) A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the block copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:



wherein  $R^1$  denotes a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  either, independently, denote a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

$X-X'$  denotes -O- or -NH-,

~~$p$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6,~~

L denotes a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

~~$p$~~  $p'$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

**5. (Previously Presented)** A finely particulate composite of claim 1 wherein the carbon compound is  $C_{30}$ - $C_{120}$  fullerene which consists of carbon atoms alone.

**6. (Previously Presented)** A process to produce a finely particulate composite of claim 1, wherein a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms and a block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment are dissolved in a dipolar aprotic solvent and mixed, and that the resulting mixture is dialyzed against an aqueous solvent through a dialysis membrane whose molecular weight cut off is 12000 to 14000, to give a finely particulate composite wherein said carbon compound is encapsulated in a structure originated in the block copolymer.

**7. (Previously Presented)** An active oxygen scavenger which contains a finely particulate composite of claim 1 as an effective ingredient.

**8. (Original)** An active oxygen scavenger of claim 7 which is used in a field of foods, medical

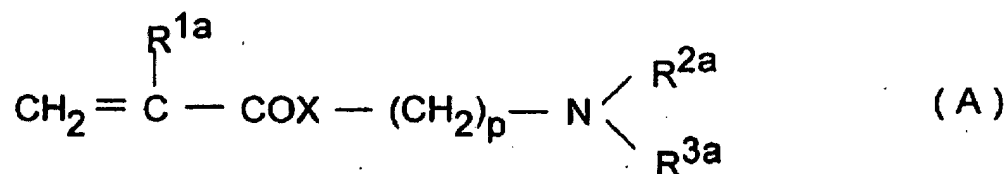
treatment, dermatology or cosmetics.

**9. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite ~~wherein comprising~~ a carbon compound of closed-shell structure which essentially consists of 30 to 2000 carbon atoms ~~is covered with polymer chain~~ and a block copolymer, wherein said carbon compound is covered with polymer chains of the block copolymer and is encapsulated in a structure-polymer micelle which is originated in ~~a~~ the block copolymer having a polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group and a poly(ethyleneglycol) chain segment, and which has the former segment as a core and the latter segment as a shell, and ~~that wherein~~ an ultrafine particle of metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is encapsulated in the closed-shell structure of said carbon compound.

**10. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 9 wherein the metal either in the form of metal element or in the form of its ion is paramagnetic metal.

**11. (Original)** A finely particulate composite of claim 10 wherein the paramagnetic metal is originated in an element selected from the group consisting of gadolinium, europium, terbium and erbium.

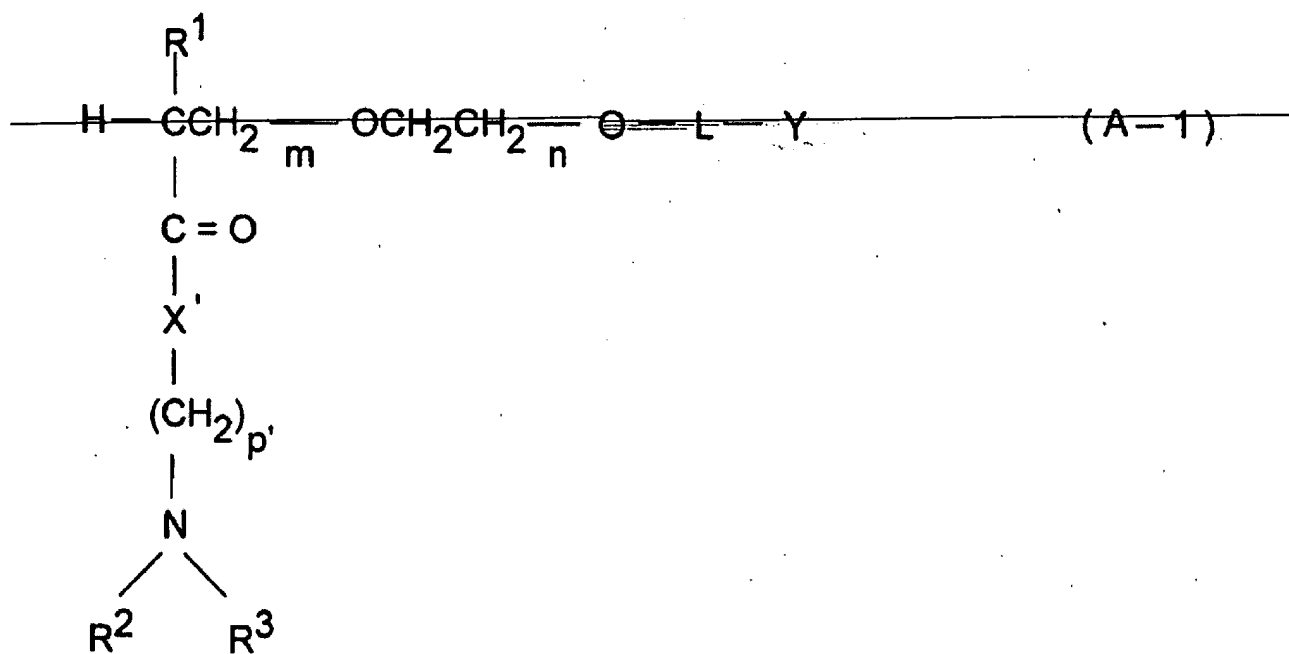
**12. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite of claim 9 wherein the polymer chain segment containing a recurring unit which has, on its side chain, a tertiary amino group and/or a secondary amino group is originated from a monomer of general formula (A) as follows:

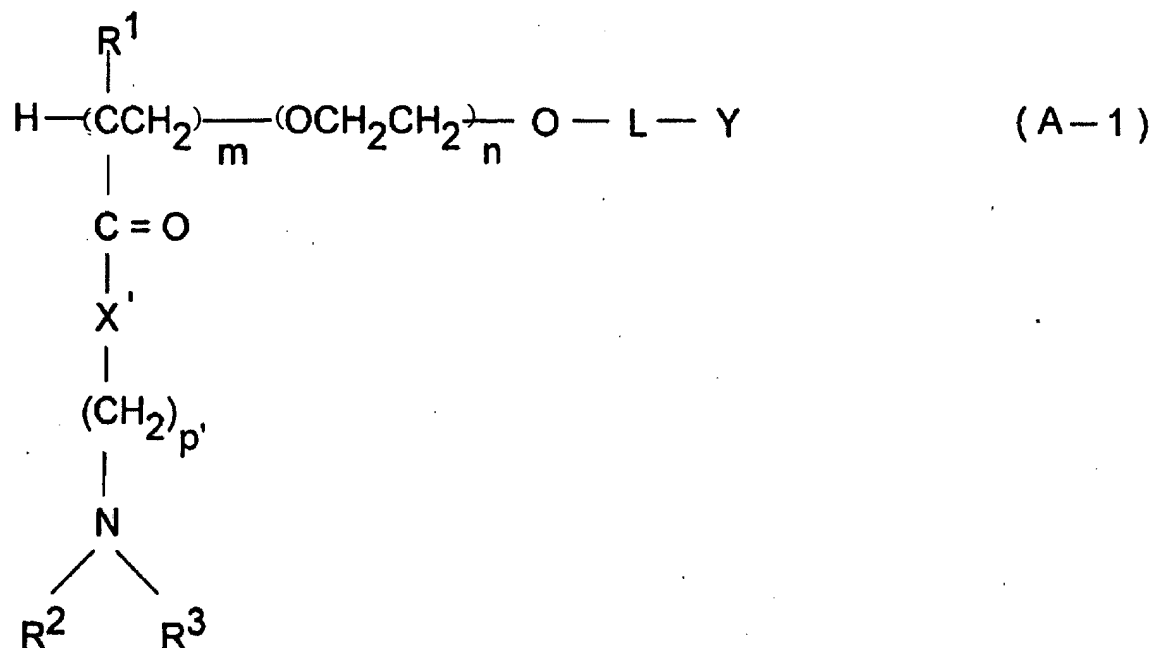


wherein R<sup>1a</sup> denotes a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>3a</sup> either, independently,

bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two ~~nitrogen~~  
nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, X denotes -O- or -NH-, and p denotes an  
integer of 2 to 6.

**13. (Currently Amended)** A finely particulate composite of claim 12 wherein the block  
copolymer has general formula (A-1) as follows:





wherein  $\text{R}^1$  denotes a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  either, independently, denote a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group or, taken together, may form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, a five- or six-membered heterocycle which may contain further one or two nitrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

$\text{X}' - \text{X}'$  denotes -O- or -NH-,

$p'$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6,

L denotes a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkylene or a valence bond,

Y denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, an acetalized formyl group or a formyl (or aldehyde) group,

m denotes an integer of 1 to 10,000,

n denotes an integer of 10 to 20,000, and

$p' - p'$  denotes an integer of 2 to 6.

**14. (Previously Presented)** A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 11 as an effective ingredient.

**15. (Previously Presented)** A contrast medium which comprises a finely particulate composite of claim 12 as an effective ingredient.